

**A note – some disads will say your plan is unpopular and will require a lot of political capital – others will say that your plan is popular and will cause bipartisanship and that one of these things causes something bad – use wither the blue or the pink but not both.**

## **A2 Political Capital and Bipartisanship DAs**

**Obama will not need to use Political Capital to pass our plan because:**

### **1. Public supports offshore wind**

#### **Caperton 12**

(Richard W. Caperton is the Director of Clean Energy Investment, Michael Conathan is the Director of Ocean Policy, and Jackie Weidman is a Special Assistant for the Energy Opportunity team at American Progress. , "Encouraging Investment Is Key to U.S. Offshore Wind Development" 1/12/12 [www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/01/offshore\\_wind.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/01/offshore_wind.html))/BB According to a nationwide survey conducted by the Civil Society Institute, about 7 in 10 Americans (71 percent) support "a shift of federal support for energy away from nuclear and towards clean renewable energy such as wind and solar." In the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, undeveloped land is difficult to find. That means renewable energy developers have to look further afield—in this case, to sea. In the early days of offshore wind, the obstacles to development in the United States were largely borne of ignorance—concerns that offshore turbines visible on the horizon would destroy property values; that noise, or safety, or storage of lubricating fluid for the turbines would pose unacceptable risks. As other countries around the world have moved ahead with offshore wind development and seen no ill effects from those factors, however, such concerns have dramatically abated. Support from coastal residents is fundamental to the potential success of offshore wind projects. After all, these wind farms will effectively be built in their backyards. And recently, poll after poll has shown that coastal residents are highly supportive of offshore wind energy. According to a poll of New Jersey residents, offshore wind production is extremely popular among voters and its support cuts across party and geographic lines. The analysis demonstrates that 78 percent of all New Jersey voters and 77 percent of the state's shore residents surveyed support the development of wind power 12 to 15 miles off their coast. Public support is strong in Delaware as well. According to a University of Delaware poll, general statewide support for offshore wind in Delaware is 77.8 percent, compared with an opposition of only 4.2 percent. In Maryland The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2011 that 62 percent of Marylanders favor wind turbine construction off the coast of Ocean City and would be willing to pay up to \$2 more per month on electricity bills. Mike Tidwell, head of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said, "Marylanders understand that the benefits of offshore wind are more than worth a modest initial investment."

### **2. Survey shows that Public loves it!**

**Higgins 9** - Research Counsel, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program and Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law

(Megan, "Symposium: Is Marine Renewable Energy a Viable Industry in the United States?: Lessons Learned from the 7th Marine Law Symposium," 14 Roger Williams U. L. Rev. 562)/BB

A survey conducted in Delaware revealed that 77.8% of respondents support the development of a wind farm six miles offshore. 105 A project proposed by Bluewater Wind will be developed approximately twelve miles offshore. 106 Those in support of wind power favored the development of renewable energy because of high electricity rates (but were willing to pay approximately \$ 1-30 more per month for wind energy versus oil or coal), air quality, environmental impacts, aesthetics, and fishing impacts/boating safety. 107 Another survey conducted in Rhode Island used photo-simulations, site selection drawings, wind measuring, and a PowerPoint presentation on wind energy to [588] determine the public's perception of wind energy projects, located both onshore and offshore. 108 The Rhode Island study found that the community's "overall stance on wind turbine power" **was 99% in favor** 109

### **Our plan does not have/lead to Bipartisan Support because:**

#### **1. Offshore Wind farms unpopular-cost**

**Bergenson '14**

Angie Bergenson is a staff writer for Hydrogen Fuel News, Three states have plans to support wind power, 09 May 2014,

<http://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/offshore-wind-energy-revolution-underway-us/8517729/>, Posted By: Daniel Birzer

**Oregon, Virginia, and New Jersey** may soon play a leading role in the advancement of wind power in the U.S. These three states have begun to show an aggressive interest in offshore wind energy. Offshore wind farms offer a wide range of benefits over their onshore counterparts. These wind farms can take advantage of the strong wind currents that exist as sea and can produce larger quantities of electrical power more efficiently. Because these wind farms are built out at sea, however, they are more expensive to develop and manage, which has made them relatively unpopular.

#### **2. Environmentalists angry at offshore wind farms**

**Bastasch '14**

Michael Bastasch is a staff writer for The Daily Caller, Feds Fund 12 Offshore Wind Turbines... At \$12 Million Each, The Daily Caller, 05/09/2014,

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/09/feds-fund-12-offshore-wind-turbines-at-12-million-each/>, Found by: Daniel Birzer

**The Obama administration has announced funding for three offshore wind power projects off the New Jersey, Oregon and Virginia coastlines.**

The administration has pledged up to \$47 million for each project to bring a total of 67 megawatts (MW) of green power online.¶ The price tag for all this green power: a staggering \$11.75 million per wind turbine. In terms of energy, the twelve offshore wind turbines will cost \$2.1 million per MW. But the high price tag has not deterred the Obama administration from funding the costly wind projects.¶ "Offshore wind offers a large, untapped energy resource for the United States that can create thousands of manufacturing, construction and supply chain jobs across the country and drive billions of dollars in local economic investment," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.¶ According to Windustry, a utility scale wind turbine cost from \$1.3 million to \$2.2 million per MW. Most

"commercial-scale turbines installed today are 2 MW in size and cost roughly \$3-\$4 million installed."¶ The Energy Information Administration (EIA) says that the costs of offshore wind power are still high at \$204 per megawatt-hour (MWh) — compared with the costs of onshore wind power at \$80 per MWh.¶ Each of the projects can get up to \$47 million in federal funding. Dominion Virginia Power will get funding to construct two 6-MW offshore wind turbines that could produce enough energy to power 3,000 homes, according to the Energy Department.¶ Five 5-MW wind turbines will be built off the coast of Atlantic City, New Jersey that will act as a laboratory for researchers who wish to study the impacts of offshore wind. Coos Bay, Oregon will get six 5-MW that will be built 18 miles off the coast in 1,000-foot deep water. The Energy Department says that over 60 percent of U.S. offshore wind resources are in deep waters, in particular on the West Coast.¶ "The Energy Department is working with public and private partners to harness this untapped resource in a sustainable and economic manner. The offshore wind projects announced today further this commitment — bringing more clean, renewable energy to our homes and businesses, diversifying our energy portfolio, and reducing costs through innovation."

### **Environmentalists and many Republicans have hammered the Obama administration for its support of wind power**

Republicans argue that the wind industry has benefited from subsidies and green energy mandates for decades and federal funding for such projects are wasteful.

### **Environmentalists are angry with the administration for not holding wind power companies accountable for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of birds every year**

One study from 2013 said that 573,000 birds and 888,000 bats were killed by wind turbines every year, many of these birds are even federally protected.